

REVIEWS

CHEMICAL INDUCTION OF CANCER. By George Wolf, B.Sc., D.Phil.
(Pp. xiii + 250. 17s. 6d.). London : Cassell. 1952.

SCIENTIFIC knowledge is increasing so rapidly that it is impossible for any one person to be the master of more than a small portion of his own subject, and yet it is desirable that he should have some knowledge of advances in other fields. This knowledge can only be obtained by the reading of authoritative critical reviews, but these must be written in such a way that they are understandable to the non-specialist. This book is an excellent example of this type of review. It deals with a branch of medicine of which few have more than rudimentary knowledge, namely, research into the causes of cancer.

The history of the chemical induction of cancer is unfolded lucidly, and in parts is as exciting as a detective novel. There is an excellent balance between the presentation of facts and speculation. At first glance, the non expert will be dismayed at the numerous chemical formulæ presented, but a complete understanding of these is not essential.

As a layman in this field of research, I found the book fascinating, and recommend it to any reader with basic scientific training.
G. M. B.

AIDS TO MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS. By G. E. F. Sutton. Seventh edition.
(Pp. viii + 346; illustrations 45. 7s. 6d.). London : Ballière, Tindall & Cox.
1953.

STUDENTS revising for the final M.B. examination will find this little book useful. Its scope is necessarily restricted by its size and there is much of diagnostic importance in the natural history of disease we should have preferred to see included at the expense of the extensive discussion of physical signs and anatomical diagnosis.

The student requires more guidance in the tactical handling of special investigations than is offered here. It seems odd to devote three pages to auricular flutter and seven lines to gastric and duodenal ulceration.
J. S. L.

ANY QUESTIONS (second series). Selected from *British Medical Journal*.
(Pp. xii + 195. 7s. 6d.). London : British Medical Association. 1952.

THIS book is entertaining and instructive.

It is a selection of questions and answers from the *British Medical Journal's* feature "Any Questions." Dr. Clegg's experts have firm opinions on all manner of ailments, ranging from millgirl's ankle to infertility, and deliver them with pleasant finality in an agreeable English prose.

There is information here for all engaged in clinical practice and it would be hard to spend 7s. 6d. better.
J. S. L.

BEDSIDE DIAGNOSIS. By Charles Seward, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Edin.). Second edition. (Pp. xvi + 380. 17s. 6d.). London : Livingstone. 1952.

IN this handbook on bedside diagnosis the author bases his text on the concept of disease as a disturbance of function which may or may not be accompanied by structural changes. Here is discussed the common presenting symptoms of disease, both mental and physical, their possible causes, and the associated clinical signs and investigations which might help to establish the cause.

Sound diagnosis is the keynote of the book, and it clearly demonstrates that the physician must view the patient as a whole and not isolate him into separate compartments, as is the tendency in these days of increasing specialisation.

This is an excellent book, not only for the student, who will find in it an excellent foundation on which to build future knowledge, but for the experienced practitioner, who will find much to learn from its text.
W. J.